

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) ~~Medical~~ A medical active substance patch comprising a matrix of monolayer or multilayer configuration ~~as well as~~ and a backing layer connected with said matrix, said backing layer having one side averted from the skin, wherein at least one layer of the matrix contains an active substance, and wherein ~~said active substance patch is characterized in that~~

[[ - ]] at least one layer of the matrix contains at least one ~~or more ingredient(s)~~ coloured ingredient ~~which is/are coloured~~, or which is/are is colourless in ~~its/their~~ an initial state and which ~~has/have~~ has a tendency to discolour or which discolour(s) during storage or during the application period[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] [[it]] said active substance patch being is transparent or ~~at least~~ translucent[[ , ]];

[[ - ]] [[it]] said active substance patch comprises at least one ~~or more~~ ~~substance(s)~~ substance selected from the group consisting of [[the]] dyes and pigments in at least one of said [[the]] layers ~~mentioned~~;

[[ - ]] in the state of having been applied to a first person's skin [[the]] said patch, at a place of the skin covered with the patch, has a lightness colour value  $L_1$  which is not less than 50% and not more than 200% of a lightness colour value  $L_2$ , with  $L_2$  being the lightness value of the region of the skin of the same person which surrounds the applied patch, and

- that the same applies in respect of the skin of a second or any other person, provided that  $L_2$  is in the range from  $5^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ , ~~especially in the range from  $20^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ .~~

2. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the lightness colour value  $L_2$  of the [[said]] first person is the lightness colour value of a person of light, Caucasian skin colour, and that the lightness colour value  $L_2$  of the [[said]] second person is the lightness colour value of a person of dark, Negroid skin colour, or vice versa.

3. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, wherein said active substance patch ~~or 2, characterized in that it contains~~ [[the]] said at least one substance ~~substance(s)~~ selected from the group consisting of [[the]] dyes and pigments in the matrix layer or in at least one of the matrix layers.

4. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, further comprising a coating covering said backing layer ~~any one of the preceding~~

~~claims, characterized in that on the side averted from the skin the backing layer of the patch is covered with a coating, in particular a lacquer, said coating containing at least one substance selected from the group consisting of [[a]] at least one dye or dyes or/and and [[a]] at least one pigment or pigments.~~

5. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least that said surface of the backing layer which is averted from the skin has reduced reflection properties.

6. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reduction in reflection properties is accomplished by means of physical methods.

7. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, further comprising an antireflection layer applied any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that on the side of the backing layer which is averted from the skin there is applied an antireflection layer which preferably , wherein said antireflective layer contains at least one [[an]] optical dulling agent or a combination of at least two optical dulling agents.

8. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said antireflection layer ~~additionally contains further comprises~~ at least one substance selected from the group consisting of [[the]] dyes and pigments.

9. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the said ingredient which is colourless in its initial state and which has a tendency to discolour or which discolour(s) during storage or during the application period is a pharmaceutical active substance, particularly nicotine.

10. (currently amended) ~~Active~~ The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it said active substance patch is a transdermal therapeutic system.

11. (currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the production of an active substance patch according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said process comprises comprising the following steps:

- a) producing a system comprising a mono- or multilayer active substance-containing matrix and a backing layer connected ~~therewith~~ with said matrix,

wherein the matrix is produced using a matrix polymer or matrix polymers, an active substance or active substances and auxiliary agents, and wherein at least one of said matrix and said backing layer comprises at least one or more substance(s) substance selected from the group consisting of [[the]] dyes and pigments ~~is/are incorporated into the matrix or/and the backing layer;~~

- b) producing at least one further system according to step (a), this system being different in terms of the concentration of the dyes or/and pigments, and/or in terms of the type of the dyes or/and pigments used;
- c) producing surface sections or punched pieces from the systems obtained in steps (a) and (b);
- d) producing or providing colour charts having lightness colour values  $L_2$  in the range from  $5^\circ$  to  $100^\circ$ , ~~particularly in the range from  $20^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ ,~~
- e) applying or affixing the sections or systems obtained in step (c) to the colour charts mentioned in step (d);
- f) measuring the colour values of the lightness  $L_1$  of the systems located on the colour charts and determining the difference between  $L_2$  and  $L_1$  in each particular case; and
- g) selecting those systems with a colour value of the lightness  $L_1$  which is not less than 50% and not more than 200% of the lightness colour value  $L_2$ .

12. (new) The medical active substance patch according to claim 1, wherein  $L_2$  is in the range from  $20^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ .

13. (new) The medical active substance patch according to claim 4, wherein said coating is a lacquer.

14. (new) The medical active substance patch according to claim 9, wherein said pharmaceutical active substance is nicotine.

15. (new) The process according to claim 11, wherein step (d) comprises producing or providing colour charts having lightness colour values  $L_2$  in the range from  $20^\circ$  to  $90^\circ$ .